

**Banning United Methodist Church**

Palm Sunday  
March 29, 2026

**GATHERING**

**Special Music and Fellowship** ..... Cathy Mauge

**Welcoming Friends and Newcomers** ..... Dan Mabey

**Announcements** ..... Dan Mabey

**Centering Words** ..... Dan Mabey

*“As we gather on this Palm Sunday, we pause to breathe in God’s peace and breathe out our distractions.  
May our minds be still, our spirits attentive, and our lives ready to follow the path of Christ.”*

**Passing of the Peace** ..... Pastor Ode

**WORSHIP OF GOD**

**Prelude** ..... Cathy Mauge  
Lighting of the Altar Candles

**†Call to Worship** ..... Dan Mabey

L: Lenten travelers, the journey to the cross begins with a procession into Jerusalem, a demonstration of Jesus’ saving power.

**P: We come to praise Jesus, the Messiah, the One who saves!**

L: The crowds line the path and shout “Hosanna! Save us!” as Jesus rides in, not on a mighty war horse, but on the backs of a donkey and a colt.

**P: We come to call on Jesus, the Messiah, the One who saves!**

L: The city murmurs, wondering who this person is who demonstrates power through humility, strength without tyranny.

**P: We come to witness Jesus, the Messiah, the One who saves!**

L: Lenten travelers, will you come on the journey to Jerusalem, following a Messiah who saves us to live after the pattern of the kin-dom of God, not the kingdoms of this world?

**P: We come to follow Jesus, the Messiah, the One who saves!**

**†Opening Hymn** “When Morning Gilds the Skies” ..... UMH #185

**†Opening Prayer** ..... Dan Mabey

**Gracious God,**

**As we gather on this Palm Sunday, we remember the day Your Son entered Jerusalem in humility and hope. Open our hearts to welcome Him with the same joy and devotion. Strengthen our faith, guide our steps, and prepare us to walk with Christ through the coming Holy Week. May our worship today bring You honor and draw us closer to Your love. Amen.**

**Old Testament Reading** - Isaiah 50:4-9 NRSV ..... Dan Mabey

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens— wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord GOD helps

me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

**New Testament Reading** - Philippians 2:5-11 NRSV ..... Pastor Ode

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of God for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon Hymn** “Here I Am, Lord” ..... UMH #593

**Sermon** “Imitating Christ’s Humility” ..... Pastor Ode

**Prayers** ..... Dan Mabey

Children in Prayer (After each slide: In Your mercy, Lord, hear our prayer)

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer ..... Pastor Ode

The Lord’s Prayer: **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

**Presentation of Tithes and Offerings** ..... Dan Mabey

**Mason Jar Ministry** ..... Dan Mabey

**Offertory** ..... Cathy Mauge

†**Doxology** “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” ..... UMH #95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**Prayer of Dedication** ..... Dan Mabey

**Lord Jesus, As we remember Your entry into Jerusalem, fill our hearts with humility, peace, and praise.**

**Help us follow You with faith and love today and always. Hosanna in the highest. Amen.**

## SENDING FORTH

**Closing Hymn** “Precious Name” ..... UMH #536

**Dismissal with Blessing**

Benediction ..... Pastor Ode

Carrying the Light of Christ out into the World

**Postlude** ..... Cathy Mauge